Amendments to the Claims:

Below is a listing of all claims using a strikethrough and underlining to show changes.

1. (currently amended) An optical fiber array comprising:

a plurality of plate-like through-hole array boards, with each array board ~~each made of a plate-like board~~ having a plurality of through-holes provided at regular intervals in a direction substantially perpendicular to a board surface of said plate-like board, and a plurality of optical fibers having end portions inserted and held in said plurality of through-hole arrays boards, wherein:

said plurality of through-hole array boards are laminated so as to be in contact with one another; and

each of said plurality of through-hole array boards have an identical shape and an identical hole arrangement relative to each other, whereby the optical fibers are fixed by relatively displacing boards such ~~said plurality of through-hole array boards are positioned in such a manner~~ that center axes of corresponding through-holes formed in said boards are relatively displaced from a coaxial position so that each optical fiber inserted in said corresponding through-holes comes into contact with inner walls of said corresponding through-holes at a plurality of points.

2. (original) An optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein each of said through-holes is shaped like a circle, an ellipse, or an oblong in section.

3. (original) An optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein each of said through-holes is shaped like a polygon or a rounded-corner polygon in section.

4. (original) An optical fiber array according to Claim 1, wherein said optical fibers are perpendicular to surfaces of said plurality of through-hole array boards or inclined at a predetermined angle in a predetermined direction with respect to the surfaces of said plurality of through-hole array boards.

5. (original) An optical fiber collimator array comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 1 and a planar microlens array having a lens interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.

6. (original) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber collimator array defined in claim 5 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to a collimator interval of said optical fiber collimator array.

7. (previously presented) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 1 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.

8. (previously presented) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 2 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.

9. (previously presented) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 3 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.

10. (previously presented) An optical module comprising a combination of an optical fiber array defined in claim 4 and an optically functional device array having a device interval corresponding to an optical fiber interval of said optical fiber array.

11. (new claim) An optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein each of said array boards are relatively displaced so that the fibers are fixedly held at a non-perpendicular orientation with respect to the array boards.

12. (new claim) An optical fiber array according to claim 1, wherein the array comprises three array boards.